

DOCUMENTS CROSS-REFERENCED  
ATTACHED:

*ER 85-2944*

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

044 2133/1-85

29 JUL 1985

The Honorable Joseph P. Addabbo  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have your letter of 25 July requesting cooperation in briefing Messrs. O'Brien, Mineta, Markey, Eckert and Brown on the current situation and outlook regarding the American hostages in Lebanon. I appreciate the pressure you and they are under from the families and share the sense of anger and frustration that the families and their congressional representatives feel. I conveyed this, along with my assurances that the Administration is earnestly and continuously working toward release of the hostages, to Congressman O'Brien in a telephone conversation last week.

I am willing to have Clair George meet personally with Messrs. O'Brien, Mineta, Markey, Eckert and Brown to present the facts as we know them, based upon [redacted] information. Because of its sensitivity, and the potential of its inadvertent revelation undermining release negotiations and, indeed, threatening the lives of the hostages, I cannot allow staff to be present; similarly, I must request that the Congressmen not pass what they will hear to the families. That, obviously, is the rub, since the Congressmen are looking for something that they can say to the families, and that guidance should come from the State Department.

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I am aware that Congressman O'Brien discussed this subject at length during breakfast with Acting Secretary of State Whitehead. I'm not at all sure that Clair George can convey anything new or different; he cannot speak to the prognosis for release. But if his knowledge of the facts and his personal familiarity with the realities of life in that part of the world can in some way be helpful, I do wish to cooperate, repeating, as I must, the caveats as to passage of the information to the families and staff exclusion from the briefing.

Sincerely,

/S/ John N. McMahon

for William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence

DGI  
EXEC  
REG

C-377

Distribution:

0 - Addressee

1 - DDCI

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1 - D/OLL Chron

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1 - C/Liaison

1 - OLL Subject (OLL 85-2133/1)

1 - OLL Chron

D/OLL:  26 July 1985)

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**  
**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	VC/NIC				
16	C/NE/DO		X		
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SUSPENSE		26 July 85 Date			

Remarks

To 13: Please arrange for appropriate action/response.

Executive Secretary

25 Jul 85

Date

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 25, 1985

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Executive Registry

85- 2944

Honorable William J. Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

As you may have been advised by your staff, five Congressmen -- Messrs. O'Brien of Illinois, Mineta of California, Markey of Massachusetts, Eckert of New York, and Brown of Colorado -- have constituents who are presently being held hostage in Lebanon. This group of Congressmen would greatly appreciate a briefing from the intelligence community, before August 2, outlining the current situation regarding these hostages, the outlook for their potential release, and other germane information which you feel is appropriate. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Joseph P. Addabbo*  
Joseph P. Addabbo  
Chairman  
Defense Subcommittee

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EXEC  
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